

Born at Home



Parables Series is about Stories

This guide is split up into two sections; activities for families and activities for adults; single or couple.

Families are not confined to only family activities and adults are not confined to only adult activities. You are welcome to do the activities that will give you the most benefit. Additionally both sections will further be divided into three categories...

1
CRAWL

These activities are quick and can be done while doing other things.

2
WALK

These activities require some time and are simple things to do.

3
RUN

These activities require dedicated time and are more complex.

A QUICK GLANCE



Window Garden
Grow something
Pg. 2



Story Game Night
Play a game, tell a story Pg. 3



Storyworth
Tell your life story
Pg. 4

A Guide for Families

1

CRAWL

Tell IT!: Many of us have a hard time coming up with our testimony because we compare our story with others and think our testimony isn't profound as others. However, any time that we have an encounter with God it is profound! In this exercise we are going to write our testimony. Simply complete these sentences....

Hello my name is _____. I am a _____ . I am struggling/I struggled with _____. It was really difficult. I am/ was able to overcome this with God's help because _____. And that is what God has done for me!

This is your testimony so don't compare it with others. God has shown himself to you through this story. Share it and don't be ashamed.

Candle: According to the "Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids," it is important to keep an inner light lit at all times to ensure the soul has faith, happiness and kindness. The inner light can help illuminate the need for change, love and justice in all areas of life. Kids can make a tribute to light with a simple craft candle project. Clean out an old mayonnaise, pickle or other condiment jar, removing the label and any residue. Decorate the outside with paint, markers and stickers, then fill halfway with decorative small objects such as beads, rocks, marbles and

fake gemstones. Anchor a pillar candle (found at dollar stores) inside the jar, then continue to fill up the jar to about an inch below the top of the candle. Kids can watch the candle flicker and think of ways to keep their own internal light going.

Parable Calendar: On page 7 inside this packet you will find a small image for every activity in this packet. Cut out the images and stick them on a calendar on the days you would like to do them. After you fill in your calendar with the activities, fill in all or some of the blank calendar spaces with at least one Bible verse for each blank day. Use the calendar every day, such as at dinner time.

2

WALK

Window Garden: The "Parable of the Sower" tells the story of a farmer who placed his trust in Jesus when planting his garden. He realized that, while some of his crops may be eaten by animals and birds, suffer due to extreme weather conditions or be crowded to death by overreaching weeds, some of his plants would flourish and thrive, creating sustenance for him and his family. Use the sower as inspiration to create a simple window garden. Clean old jars or foam cups out, then fill with soil from outside (or purchase specialty growing soil from a nursery). Add inexpensive seeds from packets (to combine parables, purchase mustard seeds, reflecting on the "Parable of the Mustard Seed") to the containers, then place in a window and see what grows.



Story Game Night: I would recommend you check out Rory's Story Cubes. The game is pretty simple. You take 9 dice with a possibility of 54 different icons or images and give them a shake and a roll. Then you must tell a story using all 9 icons that come it. You can purchase these dice at target or Walmart for around \$10. Or try your hand at making your own by printing off 54 different little icons and taping them to each side 9 dice.



RUN

40 Day Parable Challenge:

Jesus was a storyteller. The stories and illustrations He told were called parables and there is something unique about them that made them stand out.

Throughout the more than 40 parables that Jesus taught throughout the Bible, He used parables to influence and challenge the thinking of the original audience and to help people consider a different perspective about Himself and the kingdom of God.

Parables can do the same for us today as they did for the original audience. They can give us a fresh perspective on Jesus' ministry and understanding that God offers His kingdom to EVERYONE. They show us that by choosing Christ, we are putting Jesus first instead of status, money or success.

The Challenge is this; to read one parable a day for 40 days. If you read a parable and don't understand the meaning, many times Jesus explained the story in the next few verses. If not read the commentary to get more insight into what he meant.

PARABLES	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE
Salt of the Earth	Matthew 5:13	Mark 9:50	
Lamp Under a Bowl	Matthew 5:14-16	Mark 4:21-22	Luke 8:16, 11:33
Wise and Foolish Builders	Matthew 7:24-27		Luke 6:47-49
New Cloth on an Old Coat	Matthew 9:16	Mark 2:21	Luke 5:36
New Wine in Old Wineskins	Matthew 9:17	Mark 2:22	Luke 5:37-39
The Two Debtors			Luke 7:40-43
The Sower	Matthew 13:1-23	Mark 4:1-20	Luke 8:4-18
The Good Samaritan			Luke 10:25-37
The Friend at Midnight			Luke 11:5-13
Growing Seed		Mark 4:26-29	
The Rich Fool			Luke 12:13-21
The Watchful Servants		Mark 13:35-37	Luke 12:35-40
Unfruitful Fig Tree			Luke 13:6-9
The Weeds	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43		
The Seed	Matthew 13:31-32	Mark 4:26-32	Luke 13:18-19
Yeast	Matthew 13:33		Luke 13:20-21
The Concealed Treasure	Matthew 13:44		
The Pearl	Matthew 13:45-46		
The Casting of the Net into the Sea	Matthew 13:47-50		
Owner of a House	Matthew 13:52		
The Lost Sheep	Matthew 18:12-14		Luke 15:3-7
The Unforgiving Servant	Matthew 18:23-35		
The Vineyard Workers	Matthew 20:1-16		
Lowest Seat at the Feast			Luke 14:7-14
The Great Feast			Luke 14:16-24
Cost of Discipleship			Luke 14:28-33
The Lost Coin			Luke 15:8-10
The Prodigal Son			Luke 15:11-32
The Shrewd Manager			Luke 16:1-13
The Rich Man and Lazarus			Luke 16:19-31
Master and His Servant			Luke 17:7-10
Persistent Widow			Luke 18:1-8
The Two Sons	Matthew 21:28-32		
The Vineyard Owner	Matthew 21:33-46	Mark 12:1-12	Luke 20:9-18
The Marriage Feast	Matthew 22:1-14		
Fig Tree	Matthew 24:32-35	Mark 13:28-29	Luke 21:29-31
Faithful and Wise Servant	Matthew 24:45-51		Luke 12:42-48
The Pharisee and the Tax Collector			Luke 18:9-14
Ten Virgins	Matthew 25:1-13		
The Talent	Matthew 25:14-30		Luke 19:11-27
The Sheep and the Goats	Matthew 25:31-46		

A Guide for Adults

Please take a look at the family activities and feel free to do any of them that you wish. We have included a few more activities just for adults.

1

CRAWL

Parables Word Search: There is a parables word search puzzle on page 6. Go check it out.

2

WALK

Parable of the Talents: So this one is really for kids but I put it in the adult section because it's really messy and kids will need adults help to do this. The parable of the talents is the story of a man who entrusts his servants with his property while he goes on a journey. He gives them each different amounts of money. When he returns, he finds that all but one worked and made profits from what they were given. One wicked servant simply hid the money. You can read this story in Luke 19:12-27 and Matthew 25:14-30 Object Lesson on the Parable of the Talents Here's an exciting experiment to help kids become enthusiastic about using the gifts God has given them. You'll be making a kid-friendly version of the traditional "elephant toothpaste" science experiment.

Here's what you'll need:

1 liter plastic bottle
12% hydrogen peroxide

dishwashing liquid
food coloring
1 package active dry yeast
3 Tbsp warm water
a plastic cup

What to do: Measure 4 ounces of hydrogen peroxide and pour it into the bottle. Add a few drops of food coloring and a squirt of dishwashing liquid. Mix the ingredients. Next, mix the water with the yeast in a separate plastic cup. Lastly, pour the yeast mixture into the bottle and observe the fun reaction! **TIP & CAUTION:** If you want a bigger reaction go with 35% percentage hydrogen peroxide and trade the yeast with potassium iodide. You will need goggles and gloves as the ingredients can burn skin.

Explain: God has given us all different abilities and gifts. It's up to us to use them to help others and bring God glory. Some people would



rather keep those gifts for themselves, or are too afraid to use their gifts, like the servant who buried the money. If we don't use our gifts, they are like the mixture that sits in the bottle. Nothing happens until you make it happen! When we pour in the yeast, we get a colorful surprise!

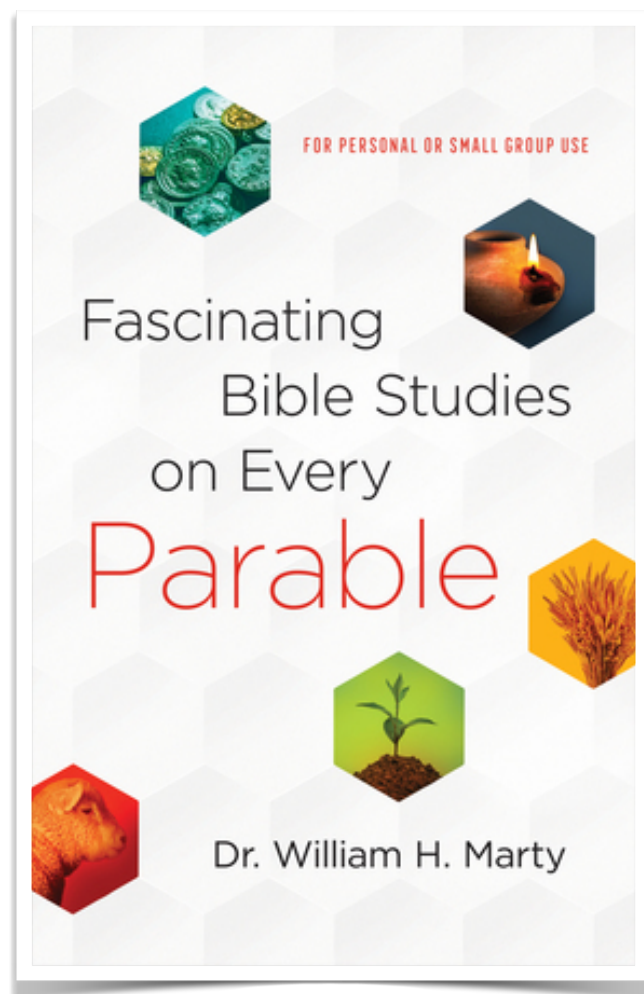
3

RUN

Storyworth: There is an African proverb that says, “when an old man dies, a library burns to the ground.” Which basically means that when a person passes away so do their stories. Storyworth is a neat way to preserve stories. You can do this yourself or you can have a loved one do this. Each week for an entire year Storyworth will email you a question that you answer similar to a journal. At the end of the year they will print a hard cover book with all of your writing in it. This is little pricy, \$99 for a black and white book, and \$39 for each additional book. However if you just want to grab your own journal and respond to questions for free you can go to <https://www.storyworth.com/questions> every time you refresh the page you will get 20 new questions.

Bible Study on Parables: I have two Bible study I wanted to share with you. The first one is called, “Fascinating Bible Studies on Every Parable.” This book provides short studies on every parable in the Bible. You'll learn what God wants us to know from the prodigal son, the good Samaritan, the lost sheep, the talents, the sower, and many more. Each study includes a summary of the parable, the Scripture reference where it can be found, information on the historical and cultural setting, and key points. At the end of each study are questions

that open the door to discussion, reflection, or further investigation and help you get to the heart of the parable. You can find the e-book on amazon for \$9. The second study I wanted to share with you can be found at camphillchurch.org under resources. It's just called Parables. I have not reviewed this entire study but it appears to be well laid out and touches on each parable. This is a free study.



Parables of Jesus

Q M X T G F I N Z J B K L A S E T B O O I D T U
 Q O R U I G D C M L Z F O D S L C W V O N K F F
 D V R I H C U Y O Q A P S V W Y K M O T X M O A
 O U X P W K W O V C E V T M F E E L E S Y C N P
 O A Z P I Q F R O E C E S G X S Q V K X O P L P
 B B B O H H S F R R M L H O R G H U K J I N O Z
 G J I O C N P T Q N U X E C P O F J F Z V Y S U
 V L L I J Y G L A L Q S E E K N W I Y O A U R K
 I A R D J I V B O O R Q P T E N Y I W D I X V A
 P A T C F S V X S W G M Q G R G B Z N J N Y W I
 S T Q K Y H N I E C H D M Y A V Z E N G A Z N I
 C I J K S O Q E O Q P F N E N G Y T O Y S I B E
 B E W Y I M D Q U K R T D A M X O C Y T O E R Z
 F J F I V S D X S N M Y I H P X G C R C T W E M
 Z W A V T L Z X N T L K Q P Z E Z O T K A P Y D
 B X C L M Z C K S X T X L W K A E S L C T K F N
 I F R I E N D I N N E E D S U K O H J F E L G W
 L O S T S O N Y I Q S B J U N L Q N S R X U K G
 N L G L N Q T E U Q N A B T A E R G Q T Y L B Y
 C E A D Q F N P I G X Q W W Z U A D A A X A K F
 J S K B T R W V S L I O S E H T D N A R E W O S
 J V A L U A B L E P E A R L E Z O L S U W X S V
 H P G S M D E E S D R A T S U M P L J I S M B H
 N U W I S E A N D F O O L I S H B U I L D E R S

Great Banquet
 Sower and the Soils
 Net
 Fig Tree
 Rich Fool
 Lost Coin

Growing Seed
 Weeds
 Wise and Foolish Builders
 Friend in Need
 Two sons

Sheep and Goats
 Valuable Pearl
 Mustard Seed
 Lost Son
 Lost Sheep



TELL IT!



CANDLE



WINDOW GARDEN



STORY GAME



40 DAY PARABLE



WORD SEARCH



TALENTS PARABLE



STORYWORTH



CALENDAR



BIBLE STUDY

Announcements

NEXT SERIES

Our next series is TBD

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES

As you are going through this guide it is the hope that you will open up spiritual conversations with your family and with others. As this happens questions may arise that you are not sure how to answer. This is okay and in fact it's a great opportunity for you to grow. In the case of spiritual questions I would encourage you to reach out to faith leaders as opposed to your own research. Online you can find hundreds of ways to answer a single question and most of them are wrong.

If someone asks you a spiritual question that you don't know, just tell them that you do not know. Also say this would be a great question for a pastor, let's go ask together. Always take your question to scripture.

Most of us use social media now. This is a great way to share your faith with someone. Talk about the activities that you are doing in this packet on social media. Show others that you are putting your faith first!

If you take photos while doing any of these activities, we want to see them! Send them to the church by email.

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You can also tag Born Church on your Facebook posts.

Any photos you send may be used for promotional purposes.